

June 15, 2004

Dear Representatives of the Western Area Power Administration:

Thank you for taking the time to hear from South Dakotans interested in seeing our state's wind resources developed and utilized to the fullest extent possible. I appreciate your willingness to solicit public comment and to conduct a much-needed study on the effect wind power will have on the current transmission system.

I have taken a personal interest in the development of wind power in this state and regret that I am unable to share my thoughts on this topic with you. In my place, I have asked Dustin Johnson, my senior advisor on energy issues, to make a few brief comments.

As the Western Area Power Administration moves forward with its study, please don't hesitate to let me know if there is anything the State of South Dakota can do to assist with that effort. I would be happy to help.

Sincerely,

M. Michael Rounds

MMR:dj